

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



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ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), will arrive December 2, 2006, to examine all aspects of the Washington State Patrol's policy and procedures, management, operations, and support services, Chief John Batiste announced today.

Verification by the team that the Washington State Patrol meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation – a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, Chief Batiste said.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session December 4, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. The session will be conducted in the General Administration Building, located at 210-11th Avenue, Olympia.

If for some reason an individual cannot speak at the public information session but would still like to provide comments to the assessment team, he/she may do so by telephone. The public may call 1-888-795-4483, on December 4, 2006 between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Washington State Patrol. The local contact person is Ms. Susan Ramsey, (360)753-0678.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Washington State Patrol's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 320, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2201.

The Washington State Patrol has to comply with 446 standards in order to gain accredited status, Chief Batiste said he looks forward to having his department go through the on-site assessment and is confident that the Washington State Patrol will successfully pass all elements of the assessment phase of the accreditation process.

The Accreditation Program Manager for the Washington State Patrol, Ms. Susan Ramsey, said the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar, but out-of-state, agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The assessors are:

Team Leader: Mr. Kenneth Hall, Lexington Division of Police
Mr. Timothy E. Fitch, St. Louis County Police
Mr. Donald A. Pike, Jr., Prince George's County Police

Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted re-accredited status, Ms. Ramsey stated.

Accreditation is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., please write the Commission at 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, VA.

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